

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 FEA-01

ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-02

OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07

FMC-02 TRSE-00 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSF-02 OES-05

OMB-01 SAL-01 /149 W

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R 151448Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2809

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOALSE

6 ATAF

UNCLAS ANKARA 2019

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: WAVE OF PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF ANKARA 1939

1. THE AEGEAN DISPUTE IS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY FREQUENT
SUBJECT OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL FIGURES AND IS
ATTRACTING DAILY PRESS ATTENTION (REFTEL). ON THE MARCH 13-14
WEEKEND PRECEDING THE OPENING OF THE LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK,
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PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE DISPUTE REACHED AN EXCEPTIONALLY

HIGH LEVEL OF VOLUME:

A) PRIMIN DEMIREL, QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS MARCH 12 ABOUT THE LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, SAID THAT TURKEY "WILL HAVE NO POSSIBILITY OF GOING INTO THE AEGEAN IF TERRITORIAL WATERS ARE INCREASED TO 12 MILES. IS THIS EQUITABLE? IS IT LEGAL? NO ONE CAN SUFFOCATE US...WILL IT BE BINDING ON TURKEY IF 109 COUNTRIES COME TOGETHER AND TAKE A DECISION AGAINST TURKEY? THE DECISIONS HAVE TO BE EQUITABLE. IN FACT, TURKEY DID NOT SIGN AT A SIMILAR CONFERENCE HELD IN 1958... WE WILL SAFEGUARD OUR RIGHTS." CONCERNING A SUBMISSION OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ), DEMIREL SAID, "THERE IS A NEED FOR A PROTOCOL TO ARBITRATE THE DISPUTE... IF YOU DO NOT CONCLUDE A PROTOCOL FOR ARBITRATION, THEN YOU CANNOT GO TO THE ICJ. WE ARE WORKING ON FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM THROUGH RECIPROCAL TALKS."

B) DEP PRIMIN TURKES (CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY) SAID MARCH 13 THAT "WITH THE AIM OF CAPTURING NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SEAS TODAY, AS THEY DID ON LAND IN THE AGE OF COLONIALISM, THE SUPER POWERS ARE DEFENDING THE IDEA OF FREEDOM IN ORDER TO CURTAIL THE RIGHTS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES OF NATIONS IN THE SEA, IN A WAY TO SERVE MERELY THE DEVELOPED ECONOMIES. THAT IS WHY THE SUPER POWERS WANT TO INTERNATIONALIZE ALL WATERWAYS, CANALS AND STRATIS." TURKES CALLED FOR A "DIALOGUE" WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHICH "DEFEND SIMILAR VIEWS."

C) REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT CHARGED MARCH 12 THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT "SHOULD HAVE MADE GREECE ACCEPT THAT THE AEGEAN QUESTION WILL BE SOLVED ONLY THROUGH DIALOGUE" AND THAT IT WAS "MANDATORY TO START THE TALKS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CONCERNING THE SEA LAW TAKES ITS FINAL FORM." SAYING THAT "ONE CANNOT SAIL A SHIP IN THE AEGEAN WITH WORDS," ECEVIT CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR STATING THAT "WE WILL NOT PROSPECT WITH A FOREIGN VESSEL." ECEVIT SAID, "JUST AS WE ARE USING, WHENEVER NECESSARY, FOREIGN AIRCRAFT, TANKS, GUNS, RADAR TO DEFEND OUR FRONTIERS ON LAND, SO WE CAN BUY OR RENT A SHIP FROM ABROAD

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TO DEFEND OUR ECONOMIC FRONTIERS AND INTERESTS IN THE AEGEAN SEA, IF WE HAVE NO SHIPS AVAILABLE FOR PROSPECTING. PSEUDO-NATIONALISTS WHO CAN BRING THEMSELVES TO PARCEL OUT TURKISH LAND TO FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES, TO RENT TURKISH TERRITORY AS BASES TO THE USA, CANNOT COVER UP THEIR GREAT MISTAKE AND NEGLIGENCE WITH THE DEMAGOGY AND DECEPTION THAT WE CANNOT DEFEND OUR RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN WITH HIRED SHIPS. THE PSEUDO-NATIONALISTS ARE NOW LOSING OUR RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN UNDER

OUR NOSES. THE TURKISH NATION WILL CERTAINLY MAKE THEM ACCOUNT FOR IT."

D) MARCH 13 CUMHURIEYET REPORTED THAT THE GOT HAD INFORMED THE GOG THAT AN INCREASE OF TERRITORIAL SEAS TO 12 MILES WOULD BE A "CASUS BELLI" AND THAT THE GOG HAD "HINTED" TO THE GOT THAT GREECE WOULD NOT IMPLEMENT A 12 MILE LIMIT EVEN IF IT WERE APPROVED BY THE LOS CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, GOT OFFICIALS SAID THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT SIGN A LOS AGREEMENT IF A "SPECIAL STATUS" WERE NOT ACCORDED TO THE AEGEAN AND THAT THE GOT WOULD REFUSE TO SUBMIT THE AEGEAN DISPUTE TO THE ICJ.

D) MARCH 13 TERCUMAN SIMILARLY REPORTED THAT THE GOG HAD "GIVEN UP" INCREASING TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES.

F) MARCH 13 HURRIEYT BANNER HEADLINED THAT THE GOT WOULD "REVISE" ITS MEMBERSHIP IN NATO IF THE GOG INCREASED ITS TERRITORIAL SEAS. ACCORDING TO HURRIEYT, SECRETARY KISSINGER ENGAGED IN TELEPHONE DIPLOMACY BETWEEN DEMIREL AND CARAMANLIS TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE AEGEANMGN URGING CARAMANLIS TO "REFRAIN FROM PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS." THE MARCH 14 HURRIEYT REPORTED THAT GOG WAS PLANNING TO DECLARE A 12 MILE LIMIT BUT THAT THE OUTER SIX MILES WOULD BE A "FREE ZONE FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS." ACCORDING TO HURRIEYT, THE GOG HAD SIGNED "SEA FACILITY AGREEMENT" WITH THE USSR IN ORDER TO AVOID SOVIET OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN.
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